Assignment of Land to Messrs. Brooke Bond Tea Company.

169. **MR. G. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Tiruvalla*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) what progress they have made in the survey of the lands proposed to be assigned to an English Tea Company (Messrs. Brooke Bond Tea Company);

(*b*) the area of the tea-growing land hitherto found available and where it is situated;

(*c*) the rate of *taravila* which the company have offered to pay in case the lands are assigned to them; and

(*d*) whether the Government propose to place the question of this assignment for the consideration of this House before negotiations with the company are finally closed?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) and (*b*) The member is referred to the answer given to interpellation No. 168 asked by Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai.

(*c*) The company have not made any offer.

(*d*) Yes.

MR. G. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): With reference to part (*a*), I am referred to the answer to question No. 168. I see no answer there. My question is what progress has been made.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The surveyors have not finished their work. It was asked in question No. 168 whether the survey was over, and the answer is given there.

MR. G. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): My question was what progress has been made.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Part (*a*) contains the answer. The surveyors started the work and are now engaged in it. The Government are not in a position to say what progress has been made. The surveyors are in the interior forests and the Government are not in communication with them about their progress.

MR. G. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Tiruvalla*): As regards part (c), the answer says that the company have not made any offer. Is there any understanding?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Absolutely nothing. The original application is all that was received.

Proposals re Assignment of lands to Messrs. Brooke Bond Tea Company.

170. **MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI** (*Kottarakara cum Kunnattur*):

(1) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a special survey party has been deputed by the Government to survey lands to be registered in the name of Messrs. Brooke Bond Tea Company for the cultivation of tea in Travancore?

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[Mr. C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.]

(2) Have the Government sanctioned any amount towards defraying the expenses of the party? If so, what amount?

(3) What was the necessity for the Government to take up the survey business before the question whether it is advisable or not to register lands to a foreign company was decided one way or the other.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (1) The member is referred to the answer to part (*a*) of interpellation No. 168 by Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai.

(2) The member is referred to the answer given to part (*d*) of interpellation No. 168 by Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai.

(3) The member is referred to the Dewan's speech made at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 24th November 1926 and published at pages 230 to 233 of the printed proceedings, Vol. X.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I know why the Government did not think it better to move for a supplementary grant for the amount of the expenditure incurred in regard to the survey party?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): There was no need for it, because money was available in the budget of the Forest Department.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Was this expenditure anticipated at the time of the budget when money was wanted for that department?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It was not then anticipated.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I know why the Government could not find funds by diversion for meeting the expense of Rs. 115 for which a supplementary grant is to be moved this time?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is in the Sanitary Department. The Government cannot divert funds from the Forest Department to the Sanitary Department or *vice versa*. This is a work which is concerned with the Land Revenue and Forest Departments. Funds were available in the budgets of those departments and therefore there was no need to move for a supplementary grant.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): What is the rule with regard to the meeting of the expenditure for surveying lands for registering the same to strangers? Why was a deviation made in this case?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Under the Rules, the survey charges will be met by the Government in the first instance and recovered from the persons concerned, eventually. But no survey is being done as I said in answer to another member.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Is it the rule that Government can spend money in advance for the party in case of *puduval* registry?

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MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Certainly, it can be done. Government did that in *puduval* survey and recovered the money from the registry-holders at the time of registry.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Is the contemplated registry to be under the Puduval Rules?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government have not applied their mind to it at all. First of all, it is being ascertained whether lands are available. The question of registry will come only later on. We do not know whether the registry is to be under the Puduval Rules or Waste Land Rules or under any other Rules

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Are the Government aware that there is a very strong protest against the assignment of land to Messrs Brooke Bond Tea Company?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The answer is given in part (*c*) of question No. 168.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): My question relates to the answer to part (*c*) of question No. 168 with regard to the necessity of registering the lands, and my question is whether the Government are aware that there is a strong protest from the people of Travancore against the assignment of lands in Travancore to a foreign company.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I will refer the member to part (*c*) of the answer to question No. 168.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): I want to know from the member whether he is aware of the *strong* protest.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I am not able to measure the thing. Of course, several objections have been made.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): Is there any party among the people here favouring the registry?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I do not know how it arises as a supplementary question. Part (3) deals with the necessity for the survey.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): I am dealing with the strong protest of the people.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That has already been answered.

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